

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended patentably to distinguish the claimed invention from what is shown in the newly-cited reference to Ohtani et al. '307. More particularly, the independent article and method claims have been amended to specify that the dielectric layer is formed on the back substrate in the second discharge space so as to cover the data electrode, and that the priming electrode is independent of the data electrode. The specification at page 7, lines 23 to 25; page 8, line 27 to page 9, line 10; and Fig. 1 provide support for the changes.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Ohtani et al. '307, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, the article and method claims have been changed to specify that (1) the dielectric layer on the back substrate in the second discharge space covers the data electrode and (2) the priming electrode is independent of the data electrode. With such a configuration, one can form a plasma display panel having a stable address characteristic, even in cases of high resolution.

Ohtani et al. '307, in contrast to the subject matter

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claimed, is directed to a discharge cell in which the distance between an address electrode and a scan electrode in a second discharge space C2 is smaller than the distance in a first discharge space C1, with the intention to stabilize the address discharge and improve the light emission efficiency. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that element 30 in Fig. 8 of Ohtani et al. '307 is a priming electrode formed on a dielectric layer 14 in an address discharge space. Applicants respectfully say that the reference does not disclose a priming electrode. The configuration in Fig. 8 of Ohtani et al. '307 shows a priming particle generating layer 30 formed on dielectric layer 14, in turn formed on a data electrode D of an address discharge cell (a priming discharge cell) with a discharge space C2. The reference also discloses that the primary particle generating layer is formed of an ultraviolet ray-emitting material having a decay characteristic such that it is excited by ultraviolet rays with a predetermined wavelength and continues to emit ultraviolet rays of at least 0.1 msec. See paragraph [0191] on pages 12 and 13 of the reference.

Moreover, Ohtani et al. '307 Fig. 21 shows a configuration in which a conductor layer 61 is exposed into a priming space, the conductor layer 61 being electrically coupled to a data electrode D through a through-hole 63. This configuration,

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unlike that specified in the claims of this application, is not one in which the priming electrode is independent of the data electrode.

In addition, Ohtani et al. '307 shows in Fig. 8 a protrusion rib 17 continuously formed on a scan electrode, but does not show, as in the present invention, with a priming electrode continuously formed to a scan electrode; there is no continuous priming electrode in Ohtani et al. '307.

Lastly, Ohtani et al. '307 shows the space used for priming discharge (the addressing discharge cell C2) surrounded by a partition wall at its periphery and divided into small sections as shown in each of Figs 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, 24, 26, 27, 31, and 33. The configuration shown therein is not that of the present claims, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 4 to 8 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Ohtani et al. '307 is also respectfully traversed. The patentable differences in structure between the Ohtani et al. '307 device and the instantly-claimed device are explained in detail above. The method of manufacture claims are patentable for those same reasons. In addition, as pointed out in the Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.111 filed December 14, 2005, the structures of the prior art and the instantly claimed device are different, and a person of ordinary skill in the art is in no

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proper fashion directed to the invention claimed in this case.

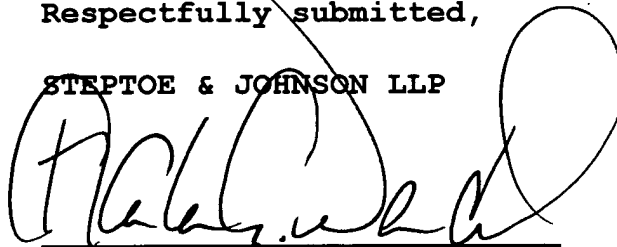
In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance, and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging that a copy of a certified copy of the priority document had been received from the International Bureau.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Charles A. Wendel, is written over the printed name and firm name.

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